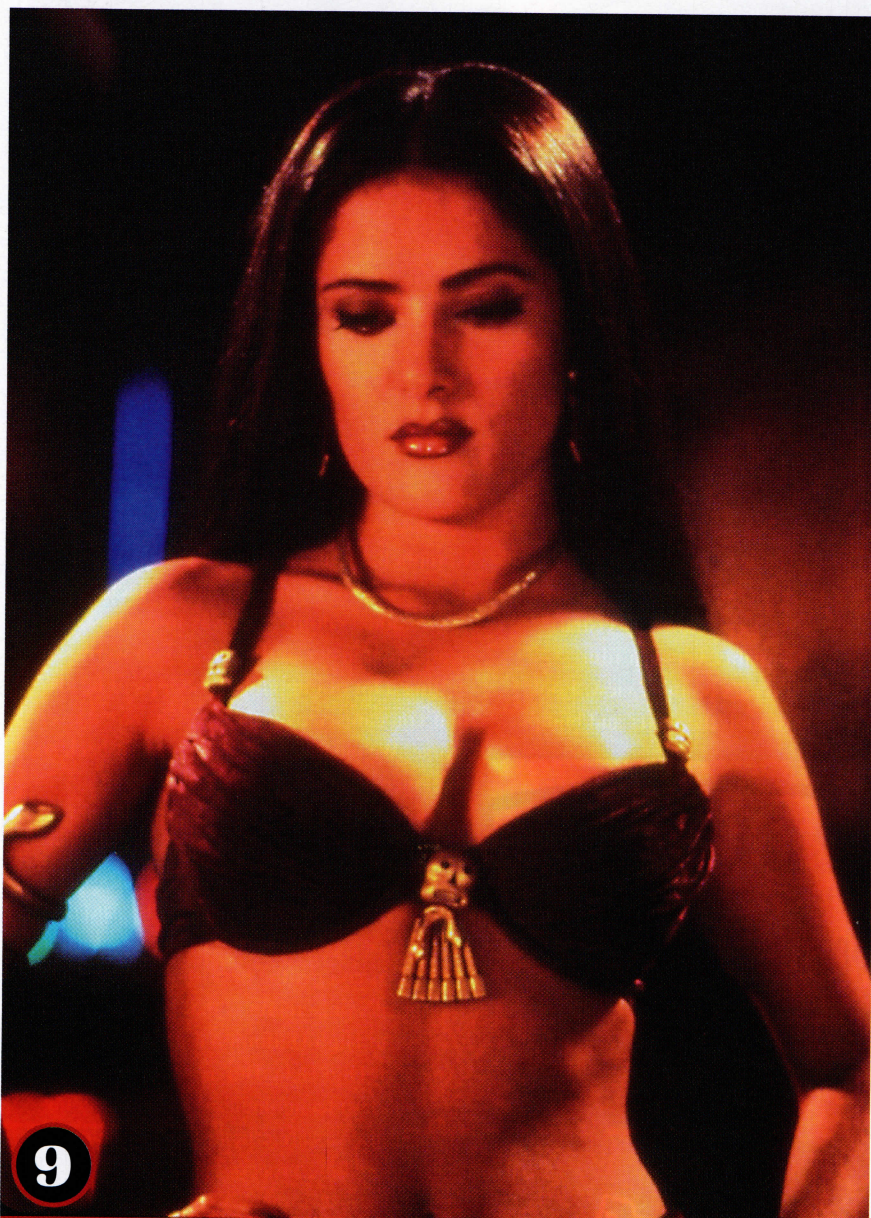


Cape Fear

10

**BLOODCURDLING VAMPIRE
PERFORMANCES
(and some not so)**



Salma Hayek

From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) As sexy stripper Santanico Pandemonium, Salma sizzled with a big white snake prior to getting all ugly on Tarantino and Clooney's asses. As boss vamp of Mexican truckstop the Titty Twister, Salma calls the shots. "You'll be my slave," she promises, "and at my command you'll lick the dogshit from my bootheel!" Alright, how do we sign up?

R4056



Mathilda May
Lifeorce (1985)

As the nude alien space girl retrieved from Halley's Comet, May's striking physical assets left an indelible impact on vampire cinema, even if she didn't exactly do or say much.

VAMPIRES THAT SUCKED

Eddie Murphy

Vampire in Brooklyn (1995)

It's *Coming To America* with fangs as last surviving Caribbean vamp Eddie Murphy journeys to the promised land of America in pursuit of a mate. Angela Bassett may have turned down the role of Leticia Musgrove in *Monster's Ball* because she didn't want to perform nude, but this movie should have warned her that there's a fate much worse; appearing in a vanity project written, produced and starring Murphy. Also surely a low point in Wes Craven's career.

Leslie Nielsen

Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1995)

More than two decades on from *Young Frankenstein*, Mel Brooks sinks his teeth into another malignant creature, lampooning the Bram Stoker tale (in the wake of Coppola's version) with ham extraordinaire Nielsen under the cape. *The Naked Gun* star drew inspiration from Bela Lugosi himself but the jokes recycled from *High Anxiety* stink – just like any Brooks production. Put a stake in it, Leslie.

Rutger Hauer

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992)

Hauer teams with a post Pee-Wee Herman Paul Rubens as bloodsuckers terrorising L.A. And you know you're a patsy when you're shown up by Paul Rubens, who at least gets a fabulous death scene, while Hauer seems genuinely perplexed facing off against a new breed of blonde and perky vampire slayer. Hauer would slip in the plastic fangs again for the new TV remake of Stephen King's *Salem's Lot*.

Stuart Townsend

Queen of the Damned (2002)

If you thought Tom Cruise sucked as Anne Rice's beloved vampire hellraiser, Lestat, then take a look (or rather don't) at Irishman Stuart Townsend's rock star reinvention for Michael Rymer's campy *Queen of the Damned*. More pale goth boy than dark immortal prince, Townsend's truly stultifying performance actually makes Cruise's look definitive. Special mention must also go to late R&B singer Aaliyah as the Queen – a performance less evocative of the mother of all vampires than Grace Jones in *Vamp* (1986).

8



Kirsten Dunst

Interview with the Vampire (1994)

The toughest gig in Neil Jordan's Anne Rice adaptation was handled with tremendous aplomb by the pre-pubescent Dunst as the petulant Claudia – an eternal child forever tormented by her own physical immaturity while her mind grows old and bitter.



7



Luke Goss

Blade II (2002) Former member of boy band Bros and successful writer whose biography, *I Owe You Nothing*, has been reprinted three times. But we'll always remember Luke Goss as Nomak, a fearsome new vampire with fangs that make him look like the mutant bastard offspring of the Predator and Nosferatu.

6



Udo Kier

Blood For Dracula (1974) As the camp count of Andy Warhol's provocative soft-focus romp, the always dependable Kier captured the frustration of a dying vampire desperately seeking the restorative blood of a "virgin" – in an Italian villa full of promiscuous women. "I just want my coffin back" he sighs.

VAMPS ON DVD



BLADE 2 (2002)

The Film ★★★★★

The Disc ★★★★★

The Vampire ★★★★★^{1/2}

A deadly new breed of vamp helps this sequel rock.



INNOCENT BLOOD (1992)

The Film ★★★

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★★★★

Robert Loggia goes troppo as the undead Mafia don.



BLOOD FOR DRACULA (1974)

The Film ★★★^{1/2}

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★★★★

Udo Kier's camp count eats Italian.



THE HUNGER (1983)

The Film ★★★

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★★★★^{1/2}

Deneuve and Bowie personify vampire chic.



LUST FOR A VAMPIRE (1971)

The Film ★★^{1/2}

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★★

Lesbo lust in a girls finishing school, Hammer style.



BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (1992)

The Film ★★★★★^{1/2}

The Disc ★★^{1/2}

The Vampire ★★★★★

Ignore Winona & Keanu and this is actually pretty good.



BUFFY SEASON 5 (2001)

The Season ★★★★★

The Disc ★★★

The Vampires ★★★

The slayer makes the ultimate sacrifice in the best of all.



NOSFERATU THE VAMPYRE (1979)

The Film ★★★★★^{1/2}

The Disc ★★★

The Vampire ★★★

Serial madman Klaus Kinski sucks-in Herzog's remake.



FROM DUSK TILL DAWN (1996)

The Film ★★★★★

The Disc ★★★★★

The Vampire ★★★★★

An outrageous, post drive-in salute to salsa splatter.



FRIGHT NIGHT (1985)

The Film ★★★

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★^{1/2}

An underrated, tongue-in-cheek eighties gem.



HORROR OF DRACULA (1958)

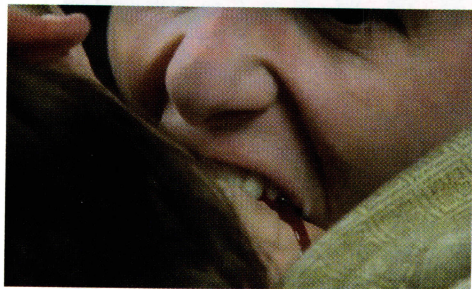
The Film ★★★★★

The Disc ★

The Vampire ★★★★★

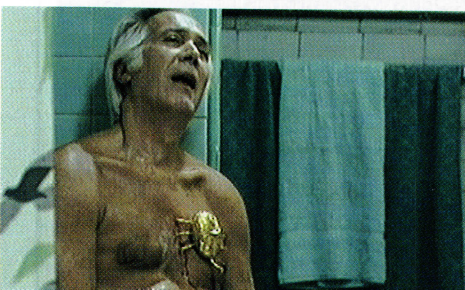
As urbane a Dracula as the screen has seen.

HOW TO BECOME A VAMPIRE



GET SUCKED

Blood is the key – as both a food source and a carrier of the arcane, transformative properties required to turn the victim into one of the immortal undead. The vampire partially drains blood from the mortal victim then will offer its own blood to replace what has been taken. The mingling of strains and ascension of the dominant vampire catalyst can manifest itself as a blood disease (*The Hunger*, *Blade II*), or as physical death (*Interview with the Vampire*, left) before the victim is reborn into the nocturnal world of vampirism. Sometimes a bite alone is enough to create a new vampire, however unless a sufficient quantity of the maker's blood is transfused into the victim's system, the result is a 'thrall' – useful as a sentry or servant during daylight hours and possessing enhanced senses and strength, but unable to sire other vampires.



ANTIQUÉ SHOPPING

Sometimes, certain objects can also serve as a transmitter of vampirism. Guillermo Del Toro's ingenious *Cronos* introduces an intricate clockwork device – the product of alchemical experimentation – that harbours an ancient, bloodsucking insect. The bug's parasitic nature keeps its host alive for centuries in order to satisfy its own endless thirst for the red stuff.



LACK OF ENERGY

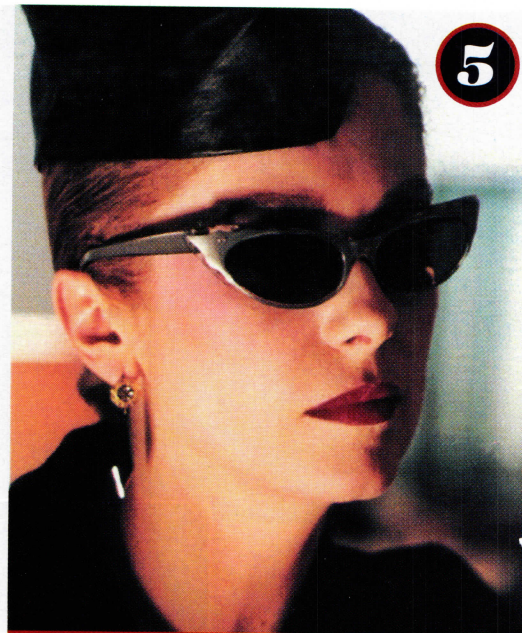
The space vampires of *Lifeforce* drain the life energy from their human victims, leaving a desiccated husk that will reanimate within hours. These shrivelled cadavers must subsequently drain energy themselves or risk exploding in a cloud of dust. As with blood, partial energy loss and the transmission of the alien vampire's own life energy can create both a telepathic link between the creature and its victim, and a hunger for lifeforce in the victim.



3

Lance Henriksen

Near Dark (1987) Genre veteran Henriksen was always destined to play a bloodsucker and brought a steely ruthlessness to the character of Jesse, the ancient scarred leader of a nomadic tribe of vampires prowling America's midwest. When asked how old he actually is, the former Confederate soldier offers: "Let's just say I fell for the South. We lost!"



5

Catherine Deneuve

The Hunger (1983) The timeless beauty of French actress Catherine Deneuve is put to exceptional use in Tony Scott's glorified music video. As the immortal seductress Miriam Blaylock, Deneuve effortlessly alternates between vicious killer, sympathetic music teacher and lesbian.



4

David Boreanaz

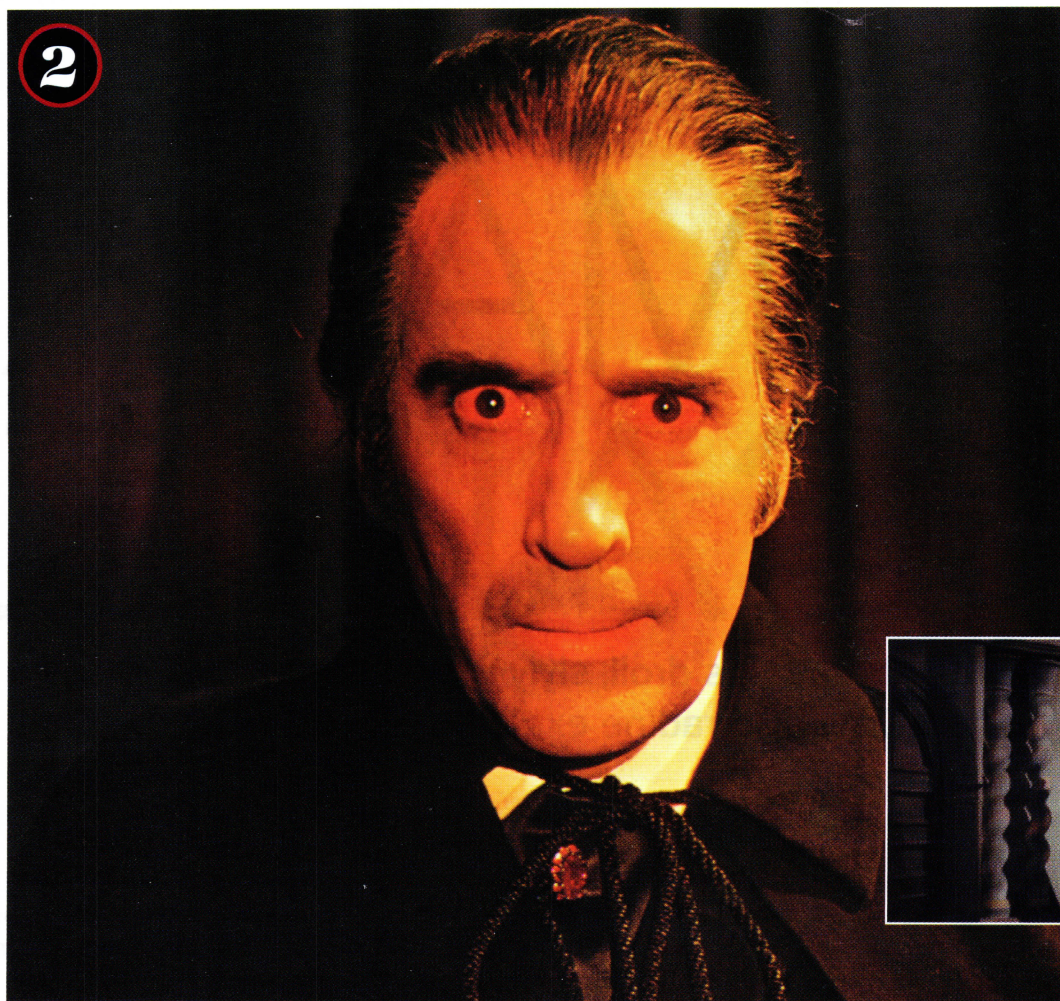
Angel (1999-2004)

Excessive brooding is the defining trait of David Boreanaz's valiant vampire with a human soul. Although a crusader for humanity against the tenacious forces of darkness, he's occasionally prone to reverting to his misanthropic vampire persona, Angelus – who's actually a helluva lot more fun.

BEHIND THE MYTH

- The Yara-ma-yha is part of Koori legend, a fig tree dwelling creature that not only sucks blood but can swallow its victim whole. From Albania to the West Indies, there can be found the recurring theme of a bloodsucking, dead man walking. This may be due to its basis in various medical conditions, many with dreadful symptoms that could have inspired superstition in centuries past.
- Vampires and bats go hand in hand in some lore, maybe because these creatures of the night are able to transmit rabies to humans through their bite. Then there's porphyria, a rare genetic liver condition that causes ultraviolet sensitivity. Extreme anaemia, or low red blood cell count, leads to a pallid complexion while receding gums give the appearance of fang-like incisors.
- Catalepsy, a disease attacking the nervous system, can lead to rigid muscles and a coma state. A recovery would appear to be like waking from the dead.

2



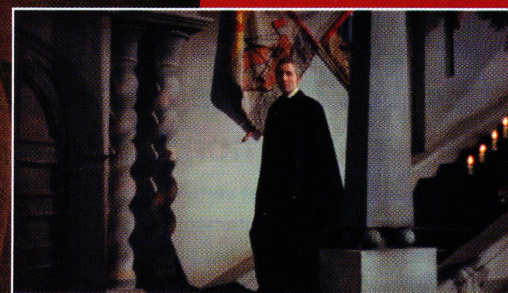
Christopher Lee

Horror of Dracula (1958)

and the majority of Hammer's Dracula films that followed thereafter would forever associate Lee with the role of the Transylvanian Count.

While Bela Lugosi's unforgettable contribution might have been the first, for many Lee is the quintessential Dracula.

From his grand entrance in *Horror of Dracula* (below) the youthful Lee is as urbane a Dracula as the screen has seen. Despite Hammer's Dracula output becoming progressively more campy in the subsequent years (*Dracula AD 1972*, *The Satanic Rites of Dracula*, left) Lee's commanding presence, swirling cape, hypnotic stare and sonorous tone have since etched themselves into popular culture... and the nightmares of millions.



Bela Lugosi

Dracula (1931)

The original and the best. Although the Hungarian actor's post-*Dracula* career was ultimately derailed by morphine addiction and a succession of crappy Ed Wood movies, Lugosi's portrayal of Bram Stoker's Count remains the definitive one. A role originally destined for Lon Chaney, Universal turned to the relatively unknown Lugosi, who was already familiar with the role thanks to a two-year stint in the Dracula stage production. The 49-year-old actor virtually inhabited the role, even wearing his cape in public (and was eventually buried in it). As hammy as a pigsty, it's Lugosi's sheer earnestness that wins through. His shameless mugging, deliberate double-takes and accentuated accent would forge a Dracula caricature for decades to come. R.I.P.



"Ve vill be leaving tomorrow ceeevening..."

1

